



## **Flooding Mitigation Committee MEETING MINUTES March 26, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

The City of Miami Beach Flooding Mitigation Committee met on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. The meeting was led by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson. Commissioners Michael Grieco and Joy Malakoff were in attendance. It was m/s/p to accept the minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2014 as submitted.

### **Mayor's Blue Ribbon panel on Flooding and Sea Rise**

Scott Robins, Chair of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise and Dr. Dwight Kraai Panel member were in attendance. Scott reviewed a Resolution from the Panel and asked for endorsement from the Flooding Mitigation Committee. After discussion it was m/s/p to adopt the resolution with one correction to reflect the budget cost to be changed from 200 million dollars to 200 to 300 million dollars. (Updated Resolution attached)

### **Financial Impact of Flooding**

Trish Walker, Finance Director reviewed the process for issuing bonds in 50 million or 100 million dollar increments and the average increase in storm water fees that would be felt per household. She explained drawing down on lines of credit and increasing storm water fees for funding solutions to flooding and sea rise. Storm water fees can be raised by the Commission at any Commission Meeting. Trish needs Public Works and CIP to provide the cost of the program and then the request can be moved forward to the Commission.

### **Building Department Recommendation Base Flood Elevation**

Mariano Fernandez, Building Director, reviewed an LTC dated March 18, 2014 from the Building Department to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel recommending raising the FEMA freeboard requirement two feet above base flood elevation for new and substantial renovations to commercial construction projects and one foot for residential projects. It was also suggested that the City's process for issuing variances be more closely scrutinized. Bruce Mowry, City Engineer stated that he would be recommending to Commission that they adopt three feet above base elevation.

### **Staffing Requirements for Flood Mitigation Program**

Bruce Mowry reviewed a proposed staffing chart with emphasis on filling vacant positions and bringing in key essential staff. Each position was explained in detail as to responsibilities in the coordinated effort to create a team. It was m/s/p to give direction to the Manager's Office asking for immediate funding to hire a Civil Engineer II for Storm Water, Hydrogeologist and a GIS Utilities position. The Commissioners on the committee were concerned that the City's hiring process is so long and that there is difficulty in hiring staff above the minimum salary per job classification. Salaries need to be competitive with the industry to keep up quality work.

**Bruce Mowry** distributed the Broward County Land Use Plan. The Committee felt that Miami Beach should have something similar and that the Sustainability Committee was the best place for this to be presented.

**Greg Tolpin** from Adventure Environmental, Inc. Public Works Contractor explained the current process for cleaning outfalls and what will be done to increase cleanings. He was asked to return to the meeting next month. Eric Carpenter said that a pilot program will be set up to clean catch basins.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The Flooding Mitigation Committee will meet next on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. The meeting will be posted on the City's website [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov), Quick Links, Commission Committee Referral Tracking (CCRT), Flooding Mitigation Home Page to obtain future and past agendas.